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FEB 14 1967

Group Got CIA Aid

Special to The Virginian-Pilot

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WASHINGTON — The National Students Association (NSA), the largest and oldest student organization in the United States, said Monday night that it has been subsidized since the early 1950s by the Central Intelligence Agency.

But the student group said it has been striving for the last two years to break its "covert relationship" with the CIA and that no new CIA funds were being accepted for its \$825,000 annual budget.

Eugene Groves, the NSA's president, issued a lengthy statement in which he said that officers and employees of the organization had neither carried out "intelligence functions" nor provided "information of a sensitive nature" to any government agency.

Independent sources said the subsidy was established and maintained at a time when Communist governments were sponsoring a host of youth congresses and a need was felt, within the CIA, to have the American student position represented at these meetings.

Groves, a 23-year-old former Rhodes scholar, said he had recently met with Vice President Hubert Humphrey in an effort to procure, through him, new funds for the student group from large corporations and foundations.

The CIA had no immediate comment.

It was learned, however, that the agency's payments to the private foundations, once exceeded \$100,000 a year. In recent years, the CIA subsidy has declined to less than \$50,000 dollars annually.

Groves issued his statement in response to full-page ads by Ramparts magazine published in Tuesday's editions of The Washington Post and The New York Times.

In the ads, the magazine said its March issue will contain a 10,000-word account of "how the CIA has infiltrated and subverted the world of American student leaders over the past 15 years" and how "it has used students to spy."